

Activity Name: Habitat Box

Activity Description: Students will be invited to use items on the table to create a habitat that would support life of local plants and animals including elements such as water and food with the "Habitat Box." We will have a variety of animal figures from the deciduous forest biome, but we will also have misleading elements from another biome as well. Students will choose what to put in the box, then we'll discuss why they included the elements they did. We'll then have a discussion about things found in certain habitats. We will emphasize the four main elements within a habitat (water, food, space, and shelter). We will make sure they included the necessary items, and discuss what they've missed that needs to be added, or what they included that needs to be removed.

Suggested Grade Level / Age Range: 4th

Science Content Covered (just provide keywords - *example - heat, light, energy*): habitats

Time needed to complete the activity: 15 minutes

Materials Required (per student):

(We will have one set for the day, children won't need their own supplies)
Habitat box, Animal figures typically found in the deciduous forest biome, Dirt/grass, Representation of water, "Misleading" elements such as desert

Directions as well as Activity Success Tips for Parents and Teachers:

Students will be invited to use items on the table to create a habitat that would support the life of local plants and animals including elements such as water and food within the "Habitat Box."

Ask students, "Why did you choose to include that element in your habitat? What is it providing or supporting for the habitat? Why didn't you choose that element? Would it have caused harm to your habitat?"

Emphasis the four main elements within a habitat: food, water, space, and shelter. Without one of the elements, plants and animals would not survive.

Ask students, "Did you include those four elements in your habitat? If not, look at your habitat again and see if you can include something else to better support the life within it."

After students modify their habitat, review the evidence of the four main elements within the habitat created by the students.

Ask students, "What are the four main elements of a habitat? Why are they important?"

Student response, "Water, food, shelter, and space are the four main elements. They are important because without one of the elements animals and plants would not survive."

Insert Any Images / Photos / Drawings needed to help describe or explain the activity:

N/A

Possible follow-up, extension activities or ideas for children and parents to explore (with references or urls):

Students can talk to science teachers about habitats. Students can also check out websites on the deciduous forest biome, as well as, other biomes. We've listed one website below.

http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/deciduous_forest.htm

Safety comments / considerations:

We don't have any concerns about safety at this point in time.

If your activity should be credited to any specific source or citation - indicate that here:

N/A

So we can make sure your organization gets credit for your participation and we refer people accurately to your organization:

Your Organization's Official Contact Person name & Title: Christine Royce, Associate Professor Shippensburg University

Your Organizations Web Site: www.ship.edu

Your Organization's Official Contact Person Phone #: 717-477-1681

Your Organization's Official Contact Person e-mail: caroyc@ship.edu